

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2744

ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008

RECOMMENDATIONS OF TRAI ON PRIVATE TV CHANNELS

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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a):whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had made any recommendations to the Union Government for banning of Television Channels run by political parties and religious organisations;

(b):if so,the details of such recommendations;and

(c): the action taken/proposed o be taken by the Government on the recommendations?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a),(b) & (c): Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has submitted its recommendations on 12.11.2008 to the Government in which among other things,it has recommended the continuance of existing policy framework of not allowing States,Political/religious bodies to enter into broadcasting and distribution services.However,they have recommended that Political bodies should be allowed reasonable access to time over air-time of the public service broadcaster. Certain category of private channels may also be subjected to legal obligations to provide reasonable access to air-time to political parties specifically during election to Parliament and State Assemblies.

Similarly TRAI has recommended that the entry of religious bodies into broadcasting activities may not be permitted. The detailed recommendations are available on TRAI website www.trai.gov.in.Recommendations of TRAI are under examination.